

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

16 May 2000

B5-0416/2000}
B5-0418/2000}
B5-0425/2000}

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Atkins, Chichester, Vidal-Quadras Roca and Purvis, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
McNally, on behalf of the PSE Group
Watson, on behalf of the ELDR Group

replacing motions by:

- the PSE Group (B5-0416/2000)
- the ELDR Group (B5-0418/2000)
- the PPE Group (B5-0425/2000)

on falsification of data concerning MOX fuels at Sellafield

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Union's duties under the Euratom Treaty, and specifically Chapters 3 and 7 thereof dealing with health and safety and safeguards,
- A. whereas in September 1999 British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL), the operator of the Sellafield MOX Demonstration Facility (MDF), reported to the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate (NII) that quality control data concerning checks on the diameter of MOX fuel pellets manufactured in Sellafield had been falsified,
- B. whereas during the investigation by the NII into the incident process workers at the MDF admitted falsifying data by simply copying previous data,
- C. whereas on 12 September 1999 BNFL suspended operations in the MDF and agreed not to reopen the MOX plant without the prior consent of the NII,
- D. whereas on 18 February 2000 the NII published a report into MOX data falsification and two other adverse reports on BNFL concerning safety management at Sellafield,
- E. whereas the NII is responsible for ensuring that BNFL operates its sites safely,
- F. whereas the NII report states that, because of the automated primary checks on the pellet

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PE 290.491}
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PE 290.500} RC1

size, the falsification did not affect the safety of the fuel; whereas, however, it also states that ‘events at the MDF could not have occurred had there been a proper safety culture within this plant’,

- G. whereas there are at present no harmonised minimum standards in the EU for the safe and reliable design, construction and operation of nuclear and nuclear-related installations,
1. Condemns the falsification of the MOX test results by BNFL staff, and the lax safety culture that prevailed at the MDF;
 2. Calls on BNFL to implement the recommendations contained in the NII report;
 3. Calls on the Commission and the UK Government, in the event of any reduction in employment, to provide additional financial support for the region affected;
 4. Welcomes the BNFL action plan to improve the safety of their operations and the management changes made so far;
 5. Requests the Commission to propose legislation for establishing EU-wide high minimum standards for the safe and reliable design, construction and operation of nuclear and nuclear-related installations and for nuclear safety management systems, particularly in view of the practical, and possibly political, problems arising from the forthcoming accession of new Member States;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Member States, the accession states, the UK Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and BNFL.